

## **I. Amendments to the Claims**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An acrylic elastomer composition vulcanizable by press vulcanization and oven vulcanization as secondary vulcanization under heating conditions, which ~~consists essentially of~~ comprises an aliphatic unsaturated dicarboxylic acid monoalkyl ester copolymerized acrylic elastomer, a carboxylic group-containing acrylic elastomer consisting of a copolymer of at least one of an alkyl acrylate having an alkyl group of 1-8 carbon atoms and an alkoxyalkyl acrylate having an alkoxyalkyl group of 2-8 carbon atoms with a carboxyl group-containing unsaturated compound, (A) about 0.1 to about 5 parts by weight of a vulcanizing agent consisting exclusive of sulfur and consisting of a polyvalent amine compound, and (B) about 0.05 to about 10 parts by weight of an antioxidant comprising a thiazole-based compound selected from 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, or its zinc salt, or dibenzothiazyl disulfide on the basis of 100 parts by weight of said acrylic elastomer, wherein the thiazole-based compound inhibits oxidative degradation of said acrylic elastomer composition.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1, wherein an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant is further used together with the thiazole-based compound, ~~the thiazole-based compound is used together with an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant.~~

Claims 6-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Previously presented): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article, vulcanization-molded from an acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Original): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article according to Claim 8, which has parts in a wall thickness of not more than 30mm.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Original): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article according to Claim 10, wherein the vulcanization-molded article having parts in a wall thickness of not more than 30mm is a gasket or O ring.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A method of improving compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition which comprises a carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer, which method comprises using a vulcanizing agent of a polyvalent amine compound to prepare the acrylic elastomer composition and incorporating a thiazole-based compound selected from 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, or its zinc salt, or dibenzothiazyl disulfide into the acrylic elastomer

composition and subjecting to press vulcanization and oven vulcanization as secondary vulcanization by heating.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A method of improving the compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition according to claim 14, wherein the thiazole-based compound inhibits oxidative degradation of said acrylic elastomer composition.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) A method of improving the compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition according to claim 14 further comprising including an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant into the acrylic elastomer composition, which functions as a primary antioxidant.